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9/13/02

[10744/4200]

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s) : Johannes-Joerg RUEGER et al.  
Serial No. : 09/824,193  
Filed : April 2, 2001  
For : COMPENSATION OF BATCH VARIATION IN THE  
TRAVEL DUE TO VARIATIONS IN THE LAYER  
THICKNESS OR NUMBER OF LAYERS IN MULTI-  
LAYER PIEZOELECTRIC ELEMENTS

Examiner : Mark O. Budd  
Art Unit : 2834

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Signature

KENYON & KENYON

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT

S I R:

In response to the Office Action of March 27, 2002, kindly amend the  
above-captioned application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 12, without prejudice, as follows:

B<sup>1</sup>  
12. (Amended) The method as defined in claim 11, characterized in that a  
control unit (D) determines that correction factor by dividing the piezoelectric  
element's (10, 20, 30, 40, 50 or 60) normal travel distance to the piezoelectric  
element's (10, 20, 30, 40, 50 or 60) respective actual travel distance.

Please add the following new claims:

B<sup>2</sup>  
-18. (New) An apparatus for charging a piezoelectric element, comprising:  
a control unit configured to control an activation voltage and an activation  
charge value to drive the piezoelectric element, the control unit configured to adjust  
the activation voltage and activation charge value to compensate for a deviation  
caused by a variation of at least one of a layer thickness of the piezoelectric element  
and a number of layers of the piezoelectric element.

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01 FC:103 252.00 CH  
02 FC:102 84.00 CH  
03 FC:116 400.00 CH